

WINTER 2014

# *The* KINGSCLERE *Quarter*



THE PARK HOUSE STABLES NEWSLETTER

# The KINGSCLERE Quarter



Geoff Rigby with MAN OF HARLECH

Front cover: *Connections of ELM PARK after the Racing Post Trophy*

Back cover: *Flora, Toby and Jonno Claus*

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## INTRODUCTION AB

As the last of the leaves fall from the trees in the famous Kingsclere avenues, it is time to reflect on what has been a fruitful and hugely enjoyable flat season in 2014. The success achieved has resulted in a record number of wins and a record amount of domestic prize money, a Royal Ascot winner and a leading two year old with strong classic credentials for next season.

This level of success cannot be achieved without the skill and commitment of the team we have assembled at Park House in recent years. From the top class management team to the part time staff, everyone at Kingsclere plays their part.

We are heading into the winter with plenty of runners for the all-weather and a couple of jumpers for enjoyment. Come March, we will head into the flat season with a strong group both numerically and in terms of ability. We will also hope to continue the Park House tradition of producing at least one or two talented apprentices.

Having so much to look forward to will certainly shorten the winter months! ■



ENLIVEN after winning at Chester with Oisín, Evie, Chad and Sophie



GEORDAN MURPHY wins the first of two races at Windsor



# REVIEW OF THE SEASON

by Andrew Balding

**F**ollowing an outstanding season for the yard in 2013, it is with great pride that I can write of another record-breaking year, with 107 winners and over £1,940,000 in prize-money seeing us to ninth in the Trainers' Championship. There was also Royal Ascot success with Born In Bombay and, for the second consecutive season, a homegrown Group 1 winner, with Elm Park's Racing Post Trophy win giving his owner Sheikh Fahad and everyone at the yard plenty to dream about over the winter months.

We have had a particularly strong group of four year olds and older horses this year and, with three Group 2 successes and several big handicap wins, they have accumulated over £1,000,000 in prize-money between them.



*HERE COMES WHEN winning the Group 2 Challenge Stakes at Newmarket*

We have always held Jim and Fitri Hay's **Here Comes When** in high regard and it has been a pleasure to see him thrive this season. He began the season with an easy win when encountering soft ground for the first time in his career at Chester in May. After two subsequent starts on faster ground he produced a hugely improved performance to take the Group 2 Oettingen-Rennen at Baden-Baden in September under David Probert, powering home to win very comfortably from a field full of Group winners. That success was followed by another impressive display at Newmarket, where he beat a strong field to win the Group 2 Challenge Stakes in October. Jim Crowley did very well to negotiate a passage from what had looked a tricky position on the stands side rail.

Having had just 11 career starts, I am hoping there could be further progress from him next term and, with a record of three wins from three starts on soft ground, he looks capable of stepping up to Group 1 company granted his

conditions next term. The Lockinge is a likely early-season target.

**Tullius** has been a tremendous flagbearer for both the yard and his owners Kennet Valley Thoroughbreds and he fully deserved his Group 2 win at Sandown Park in April, before an exceptional effort in defeat on unsuitably fast ground when second to the top-class Olympic Glory in the Lockinge. Following a fine fourth in the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes, he was given a break over the summer with a view to an autumn campaign on his favoured soft ground. Having finished fourth in the Group 2 Joel Stakes at Newmarket in September, he relished the heavy ground on Champions Day at Ascot to run the race of his career to again be fourth, in the Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Stakes. He came with a strong challenge two furlongs from home



*INTRANSIGENT winning his second listed race of 2014 at Lingfield*

and taken the lead under regular rider Jimmy Fortune. It briefly looked as if he might hold on, but although he held off his peers the trio of three year olds proved just too good. Better than ever at the age of six, it would be wonderful if he could make his mark at the top level next year.

The admirable **Whiplash Willie** returned from three years on the sidelines with a win in the City Bowl at Salisbury in May, since when he has run five excellent races in defeat. Second at Chester in August under a welterburden, he ran superbly to finish runner-up in the Group 2 Doncaster Cup before two fine fourths in top staying company, in the Group 1 Prix du Cadran and then the Group 2 Long Distance Cup on Champions Day.

To return after such an absence and show improved and consistent form at such a high level is testament to what a tremendously tough and resilient character he is and he fully deserves to get his head in front in Group company.

**Intransigent** has always been a very talented individual and things have really clicked with him in recent months. Having long considered him to require a sound surface, his impressive win in Chester's Listed Queensferry Stakes in August on good to soft caused a rethink which saw him run in the £150,000 Challenge Cup Handicap at Ascot two starts later. Though I was optimistic he would handle the soft ground, few would have expected him to win in quite the style he did. Making smooth progress from the rear on the bridle, quickening smartly and keeping on strongly under Oisin Murphy he recorded as facile a success as can be imagined in such a competitive handicap.



*ABSOLUTELY SO winning the City of York Stakes at York*

A change to more patient tactics has undoubtedly helped him, but they were unable to be deployed back on the All-Weather at Lingfield Park last time. Nevertheless, he still managed to win the Listed Golden Rose Stakes a shade comfortably under Jamie Spencer, and in doing so qualified for the Sprint Final in Good Friday's All-Weather Championships, which is his early-season target.

Like Intransigent, **Absolutely So** has always looked to have the ability to make his mark in pattern company and, following a narrow defeat in the Bunbury Cup, he produced an impressive performance to win the Listed City Of York Stakes at the Ebor meeting, before rounding off what has been a busy year with a creditable display in the Group 2 sprint on Champions Day. Owned by the Smith family, he made great strides this year, having risen 32lbs in the ratings since reappearing from a spell on the sidelines last December. He is a tremendously exciting prospect for 2015.

Mick and Janice Mariscotti's **Havana Beat** was certainly unlucky not to get his head in front last season, so we were delighted to see him get the better of a three-way finish in the Listed Esher Stakes at Sandown Park in July. A race that stayer Chiberta King had won back in 2011 and finished third in for the past two years. That success saw us take Havana Beat to Arlington for the American St Leger, where he ran with great credit to finish third under locally-based

rider Joel Rosario, splitting the two other British challengers. Seventh in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in June, I hope he can develop into a contender for major staying honours next season, with Dubai the first item on his agenda.

**(Lord) Van Percy** enjoyed a prolific campaign, winning on his seasonal reappearance on the All-Weather in March and again at Newmarket in May. He then gained his biggest win with a typically game display to take the Summer Stakes handicap at Glorious Goodwood under David Probert, the first of our two winners at the meeting this year.

That win preceded a fantastic effort in defeat in the Ebor, in which he found only the high-class Mutual Regard too good. This cemented plans for him to continue his career in Australia, where he finished a fine fifth on his first start in the Group 2 Herbert Power handicap. We had intended to run him in the Lexus, a 1m4f contest run three days before the Melbourne Cup, the winner of which gets an automatic place in the big race. However, a minor issue at the eleventh hour meant that he was unable to run. This was a real blow for his new Australian owners, who had bought into the horse in the summer with a tilt at the Melbourne Cup in mind. He will continue his career with a new trainer in Australia.



*DUNGANNON winning at Doncaster for the second consecutive year*

A three-time winner last autumn, **Dungannon** struggled to find his form in the first half of this campaign. Reunited with Oisin Murphy and running on soft ground for the first time since winning a valuable handicap at Doncaster last year, he duly bounced back to form with a short-head success at Ascot in October. Though upped 4lbs for that victory, he followed up in really good fashion with a second successive win in the 5f handicap at Doncaster on Racing Post Trophy day, providing the first leg of a double completed in some style by Elm Park half an hour later. He has now won at Ascot and Doncaster in three of the past four years and we will certainly try to make it four from five in 2015!

Phoenix Reach has enjoyed a breakthrough year as a stallion with Elm Park's Group 1 & 2 successes, but his



older horses have been in fine form too and, at the age of six, **Rawaki** improved again this term. He finished third in the Group 3 John Porter Stakes back in April and ran very well on several occasions in Listed company before a deserved win in a conditions race at Salisbury. We will try him again on the All-Weather as he could be another one for the All-Weather Championships in April.

**Angelic Upstart** was another to find further improvement, winning his fourth race on the All-Weather and his second race on turf this year. The latter came under a good ride from Kieran Shoemark in the apprentice handicap at Glorious Goodwood. He will be back next year, as will **Dandy**, who won twice on fast ground at Bath and Chepstow in the summer and has tried his hand at hurdling in recent weeks.



MELVIN THE GRATE winning at Haydock under David Probert

**Purcell** benefitted from two well-judged rides from Oisín Murphy at Lingfield in the spring but was unable to transfer that form over to the turf in three subsequent runs in very competitive handicaps. However, the handicapper has given him a chance on turf now and he will be aimed at a nice prize in the spring, with his career form figures in March/April reading 2111.

**Soviet Rock** won the fourth race of his career in May and, though he was unable to win again, realised a good sum at the Horses in Training sale at Newmarket. He is likely to appear at the Dubai Carnival for his new connections while **Daylight** was another to be sold in October, having won twice in the early summer at Lingfield Park and Brighton.

The last foal of the great Lochsong, **Swan Song** won well at Chester's May meeting and ran a fine race when finishing fifth in the Epsom Dash. She has now been retired by her owner Jeff Smith and we look forward to seeing her progeny on the racecourse in time. Also off to the paddocks is **Debdebdeb**, who won on her reappearance at Bath in May and later finished fourth in the Shergar Cup Stayers.

**Perfect Mission** has been a perfect schoolmaster for our apprentices in the yard in recent seasons and, having provided Jonathan Willetts with a first career winner in 2013, he did the same for our amateur Hugo Hunt back at Salisbury in June. I imagine there are several aspiring young jockeys in the yard hoping to be part of an unusual hat-trick of wins next year!

**Desert Command** was another to win at Bath in the spring and he ran with credit in subsequent starts during what has been a light campaign. He will be back next year and the brother to Desert Law remains open to improvement. It was pleasing to get two wins from **Melvin The Grate**, who was returning to us after a spell in Ireland and was given a good ride by David Probert to win on soft ground at Haydock Park in October. He could be targeted at the Spring Mile, the Lincoln consolation race, at Doncaster in March.

Though our celebrated globetrotter **Side Glance** has not managed a win so far this year, he has once again



Pin up boy SIDE GLANCE training at Weribee

acquitted himself tremendously well in eight Group 1 races on four continents this year. He finished fourth in the Dubai World Cup for the second successive year and was placed third three times, including in the Arlington Million and the Caulfield Stakes, before an admirable half length fourth in the Cox Plate. He will now have a short break before a return to Dubai for a third tilt at the world's richest race.

**Highland Knight's** best run this term came when a fine second in the mile event at Lingfield Park on Good Friday and he has now been retired at the age of seven. The winner of six of his 37 races and a few pence shy of £1¼million in prize money, his wins included Group 2 success in Germany in 2012 and the Group 3 Darley Stakes at Newmarket last October. A real stable star in recent years, Highland Knight will spend his retirement at Kingsclere as a hack, for which we are very grateful to his owner Jeff Smith.

Having missed the entire turf season through injury, **Chiberta King** has been quiet in two reappearance runs in November but has shaped as though he retains a good portion of his ability at home. Although rising nine, I hope there are more days in the sun for him yet.

Last year's Ayr Gold Cup hero **Highland Colori** was unable to find his best form this year but he has now come down to a very workable mark, being 2lbs lower than when winning at Ayr, and he did run well on his sole handicap start at York in October. A return to big handicaps should suit him well and hopefully he can land another big one, while it was encouraging to see a better run from **Modern Tutor** on his fourth start for us at Kempton in November. He is another who should be able to make an impact from a fair mark.

**New Fforest** hails from an excellent family bred by the Elite Racing Club and she has been retired to the paddocks, with her performances not matching up to the form she showed when winning at Warwick and Leicester last year. Unfortunately, dual winner **Ballinderry Boy** has also had to be retired, having picked up an injury this summer. It was a bitter blow to have to retire a horse who had looked such a promising stayer.

**Zanetto** won a sales race and a Listed contest last year, so his poor form this term has been very disappointing, especially given his good homework. He will be given another chance next season following a prolonged holiday. I hope **Sea Soldier** can go one better when he returns, having finished runner-up on his last three outings in the spring, including when beaten just a neck at Salisbury under Maryann Wall on her first ever ride.

### THE THREE YEAR OLDS

It was a real thrill for us all to register another Royal Ascot winner courtesy of **Born In Bombay**. His victory, in what was a really strong renewal of the Britannia Handicap, provided David Probert with a first ever winner at the meeting. It was a very special day, with our great supporter George Strawbridge there in person to welcome him into the winners' enclosure. Born In Bombay was subsequently sold privately to Hong Kong and it will be very interesting to watch his career progress over there.

Having provided a first winner in this country for the four-time Ascot Gold Cup winner Yeats, **Montaly** was once again a fine advert for his young sire this year. He won on his reappearance at Leicester and, after a couple of near misses and a fifth in the Queen's Vase on his next outing. He supplemented that success with a battling win in a valuable handicap at Haydock Park in August. The form of that race has been well-franked since. He could step back up in trip again next term and looks the type who could land a big handicap one day.

**Merry Me** was bred by her owner Fitri Hay and, following wins at Lingfield Park and Ffos Las this term under Jim Crowley, she gained some valuable black-type when third in Listed company at Doncaster on the final day of the season. She looks capable of winning at that level next year, which I hope will also prove to be the case for **Secret Hint**, a homebred of George Strawbridge's who won her maiden at Doncaster in July and produced a fine effort to win from out of the handicap in a competitive Newmarket handicap in September on her final start. The second finished runner-up in a Listed contest on her next outing and the third won in that grade next time, so the form is there for Secret Hint to make her mark at that level.

A special mention must go to two other fillies that between them racked up an incredible 11 wins this year. **Alumina** had looked a modest filly in three runs in maidens as a back end two year old and, though she looked capable of picking up a minor race somewhere, her subsequent improvement over the next three months was



*CHESIL BEACH winning at Chester, the third of four consecutive wins this summer*

nothing short of astonishing. She won six times in a row on the all-weather tracks, climbing 38lbs in the handicap in the process. Though she has since been retired after proving unable to match those exploits on turf, she was nominated for the award of 'Outstanding All Weather Horse' at the upcoming ROA Horseracing Awards.

**Chesil Beach** was bred at Kingsclere Stud and, after two runs in maiden company, required a drop to selling grade to get off the mark at Lingfield Park in June. As it turns out, I am hugely thankful that she failed to attract a bid in the auction that followed, as she went on to win her last four starts of the season, which included valuable handicap victories at Chester and Musselburgh. Rated 88 at the end of the campaign, she will resume next term in search of further handicap success and some black-type!

Like Chesil Beach, **Spectator** runs in the famous Mill Reef colours now sported by runners for the Kingsclere Racing Club, and Side Glance's brother made great strides



in the first half of the season, winning at Chepstow and Chester in the summer. With his form leveling out, a first-time visor was tried for his final outing of the year at Doncaster and produced a huge improvement. He travelled really strongly throughout and pulled clear in the final furlong under David Probert in the style of a very well-handicapped horse. The handicapper has raised him 8lbs for that, but it would be a surprise if a mark of 86 were to prove the ceiling of his ability.



*NABATEAN after his win at Nottingham with proud owner/breeder Lady Blyth*

Another young stayer to note for next year is **Nabatean**, who built on his maiden win at Lingfield in June with two fine efforts in big handicaps at Ascot and Newmarket, prior to rounding off with a comfortable win at Nottingham in October. Now rated 91, he will be considered for all the top staying handicaps in 2015.

A son of the excellent young sire Mastercraftsman, **Der Meister** won on his debut at Yarmouth in April and followed up on his handicap bow at Windsor the following month. Very unlucky in running on his third outing, there were no such excuses on his fourth and final start at Newmarket in September and he duly recorded the third win of his short career to date. Given his progressive profile, he was very popular at the Autumn sales and provided his owners with a fine return on his yearling purchase price of 20,000gns, realising eight times that amount in the ring.

I have always thought quite highly of New Forest's half-brother **Man Of Harlech** and he won his maiden in promising fashion at Windsor in April, despite us not having had the clearest of runs with him in the leadup to his reappearance. He was unable to show his true ability in two subsequent handicap outings in the summer but will be back next year and, a big strapping individual, he looks the type to progress at four.

David Brownlow's **Pool House** was in tremendous form earlier in the campaign, winning three times in the All-Weather before a fine third in the 7f contest on Good Friday. He will be back for a similar campaign over

the winter. David has been an outstanding supporter of ours and, through his company Huntswood, very kindly sponsors all our apprentice jockeys.

**Bishop Of Ruscombe** was another of David's to win on the All-Weather in the spring and he remains capable of better than he has shown in his light career to date. **Mime Dance**, also in the same ownership, won the valuable Brighton Mile handicap, the richest race of the year at the Sussex track. Beaten just a nose at Epsom on his final start of 2014, he can progress further, as can **Mymatechris**, who won three times from seven starts in this his first season. His second victory, our 100th winner of the season, came in impressive fashion at Kempton, suggesting there is a good deal more to come.

I have been very pleased with **Geordan Murphy's** progress in recent months as, having only made his racecourse debut in September, he recorded back-to-back wins on soft ground at Windsor in the space of a fortnight. He is progressive and should not be long in winning again.



*MYMATECHRIS winning at Kempton makes it 100 wins this season*

**Zampa Manos** was given an excellent ride by Oisín Murphy to win at Kempton in April but, having finished fifth on his next start in the Dee Stakes, he struggled off a tough mark in handicap company thereafter. He is now back down to a mark off which he should be making a real impact this winter. Similar comments apply to Dunstall Park winner **Collaboration**, whose reappearance win was not matched in subsequent outings in good company off higher marks. His turn should not be far off now that he is reasonably-handicapped again.

**Storm Force Ten's** two wins at Kempton Park and Chester in the first half of the year showed him to be a useful middle-distance prospect and, out of a Grade 3-winning hurdler and owned by Robert Waley-Cohen, he will represent Kingsclere as a juvenile hurdler this term and is a very exciting prospect.

**Elbereth** quickened nicely to put the race to bed on just her second start at Kempton in August and, after a

disappointing handicap debut, she returned to form when third at the same track in November. She has been a bit weak and backward and should remain on an upward curve. **Hannington** has been quite a similar type, not making his debut until June but getting off the mark at the second attempt at Nottingham in July under Rob Hornby, who has enjoyed a good season with seven winners.

We enjoyed another excellent season at Chester with 11 winners from 31 runners at a strike-rate of 35% and The Queen's **Enliven** was another to win there for us this term. This well-bred daughter of Dansili has since been retired to the paddocks. **Micras** was another winner in the Royal colours and she headed for the Tattersalls December Mares sale.

Another well-bred filly to have been retired at the end of the season was **Stybba**, who was given an excellent ride by Hugo Hunt to get off the mark on what was to prove her final career start at Nottingham in November. A daughter of Medicean and from the family of Time Charter, she should make an excellent broodmare.



Bernie and Kathleen McGuire after Geordan Murphy's win at Windsor

**Comanchero** and **From Frost** were both dual winners this year, the former at Chepstow and Chester and the latter showing a real liking for the fibresand with two wins at Southwell. Both have since been sold at the Horses In Training sale, but fellow dual winner **Royal Warranty** will be returning to training next year, having made good strides this year with wins at Bath and Kempton under David Probert. A homebred daughter of Sir Gordon Brunton's, she stays well and looks a nice prospect.

**Libeccio** and **Roskilly** won at Brighton and Chester respectively in the summer for owners Mick and Janice Mariscotti and both have since been sold, as has Leicester scorer **Scoppio Del Carro**, with all three likely to be seen over timber in the coming months.

**Scotland** went into the winter as a possible Derby contender, but he failed to shine on his reappearance at Newbury and then shaped more like a stayer when third in

the Chester Vase and in an excellent renewal of the King Edward VII, in which he split subsequent Group 1 winner Adelaide and St Leger third Snow Sky. A fair fifth in the Gordon Stakes, we were disappointed that he failed to show his form in the St Leger. Hopefully he can develop into a high-class stayer next term.

**Signposted** showed a high level of form last year and more than matched that in defeat in the spring, finishing fourth in the Investec Derby Trial at Epsom and then a close third in the Listed Cocked Hat Stakes at Goodwood. He was sold at the inaugural Goffs London Sale in June.

Another to have been sold after showing smart form earlier in the season is **Impulsive Moment**, who finished runner-up in the Classic Trial at Sandown Park and third in the Listed Glasgow Stakes at Hamilton, either side of his 11th in the Derby behind impressive winner Australia. **End Of Line** will also be racing for new connections next year after being sold. He was unable to progress after three fair runs in the first half of the campaign, including when ninth in the French 2,000 Guineas in May.



ENLIVEN winning at Chester under Oisin Murphy

**Smiling Stranger** has looked a useful horse in his work at home. So it was a disappointment that he was unable to win in five starts this term, though he finished runner-up on three occasions, including to two useful three year olds. He picked up a knock after his latest outing at Goodwood but will be back next season and I hope he can develop into a useful handicapper.

**Wu Zetian** only made her debut in September and she has finished in the first four in all her starts this autumn, winning her latest outing at Southwell. Fame And Glory's sister **Grace And Favour** showed enough ability in four starts earlier in the season to suggest she can get that all-important win when she returns next year, and I hope the same is true for **Every Time**, a daughter of Musidora winner Time Away, who ran with credit on several occasions in the summer. Another filly in search of a win is **Darting**, who has finished in the first four on



five occasions. I hope she can find a suitable opportunity this winter.

**Jonny Rae** is a half-brother to Elm Park and had shown plenty at home prior to his promising debut at Newbury in May. Unfortunately, he picked up a tendon injury after his only other start and will be off the track for some time, though it is certainly worth persevering with him.

**Jeremy's Jet** and **Kokovoko** both made belated racecourse debuts this autumn and, while the former sold well after three starts in maidens, the latter will be kept on the all-weather for a couple more starts, having shown definite ability despite running green at Kempton. Another late starter to have shown ability is **Priors Brook**, who ran better than the result would suggest when fifth at Lingfield Park last time on just his second outing.



*ELM PARK winning at Doncaster with an emphatic display in the Racing Post Trophy*

**Rizal Park** had a rather interrupted campaign but he shows more than enough at home to suggest he will be winning races off his mark. This should also prove the case with **Haines**, a half-brother to Ballinderry Boy, who has finished third on three outings since joining us in the autumn. **Cape Victoria** had a minor setback after her only start of the term, a promising third at Chepstow, and she looks the type to improve as a four year old.

**Thanks Harry** is another recent arrival in the yard and he finished a fair fifth on his first start for the yard, suggesting he can win races this winter. **Perfect Legend** has now qualified for a handicap mark after three runs in maidens and hopefully he can make an impact off a low mark, while it would be lovely to see the Sky Sports News

filly **On Demand** shed her maiden tag in the near future, with a second at Brighton in October her best run to date.

## THE TWO YEAR OLDS

It is every trainer's dream to go into the winter with a serious contender for the following year's Classics and **Elm Park** thoroughly deserves his status as the leading domestic contender for next year's Epsom Derby. This has been a season that everyone connected with him will always remember.

Bred on the Stud by my mother, he had looked useful in his work at home prior to a very promising debut at Sandown Park in July. He ran very green and the penny appeared to drop only in the final half-furlong, at which point he sprinted past the third and it took David Probert until halfway down the back straight to pull him up!

A facile maiden win at Newbury on his next start saw us step him up in grade for the Listed Stonehenge Stakes at Salisbury. He passed the test with flying colours, making all the running and merely needing to be shaken up to quicken clear, eventually winning by three lengths.

Purchased in the aftermath of the Salisbury win by Qatar Racing, the Kingsclere Racing Club retained a half-share in the horse for his final two starts of the season and members were on hand to celebrate alongside Sheikh Fahad at Newmarket, where Elm Park took the Group 2 Royal Lodge. Rallying from an unlikely position over a furlong

out, he stayed on really strongly after meeting the rising ground to win by a length under Andrea Atzeni, riding his first big winner in the Qatar Racing silks since getting the number one job the previous month.

The Racing Post Trophy had been in my mind for him for some time and, following his Royal Lodge win, it looked the logical race for him, despite no horse having managed the Royal Lodge/Racing Trophy double since Dunbeath for Lester Piggott and the late Sir Henry Cecil back in 1982.

Though it was perhaps not the strongest renewal of the famous contest, Elm Park's front-running performance was a vintage one. Andrea Atzeni was able to celebrate in the final hundred yards as the pair came home clear, Elm Park requiring only minimal assistance from the saddle to win in

fine style. Both the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby are on the agenda for him next season and it is so exciting to have a colt of his quality to look forward to next year.

**Make It Up** is one of several useful two year olds to have run this term, winning on his debut at Epsom under



*MAKE IT UP makes a winning debut at Epsom under Tom Brown*



*MASTER APPRENTICE is impressive in winning his maiden at Windsor*

Thomas Brown. He supplemented that success with front-running tactics under David Probert at Goodwood, where he had a subsequent Group 1 runner-up back in third. He failed to give his running in the Group 3 Tattersall Stakes on his final outing, but remains a very exciting colt for next year, with similar comments applying to **Master Apprentice**, who was off the mark at the third attempt in soft ground at Windsor but finished down the field in the Group 1 Criterium International at Saint-Cloud. I am looking forward to seeing both of them in action in the spring.

**Dance Of Fire** followed his maiden win in a match race at Epsom with a nursery success at Doncaster in September, in which he broke the two year old course record. He received a bump at the start prior to running below that form in the Autumn Stakes but can be expected to do better again when reappearing after his winter break.

The beautifully-bred **Rocky Rider** finished a very promising fourth on his debut at Haydock despite being

struck into and duly built on that when holding on by a nose to win on his second outing in an extended mile maiden on soft ground at Windsor. He should make up into a lovely three year old, as I hope will **Duretto**, who finished runner-up on soft ground at Newbury in October before going one better in ready fashion at Kempton Park the following month. A half-brother to Nabatean, he should do even better when stepping up in trip next term.

The Queen's **Kinematic** came up against Ivawood and Charming Thought when placed in maidens at Sandown Park and Lingfield respectively and, with that pair going on to finish first and second in the Group 1 Middle Park, in hindsight it was perhaps not my finest piece of placing this year! However, an impressive performance of real speed on her nursery debut at Chester saw her break the juvenile



*ROCKY RIDER returns after winning his second start at Windsor*



*COSMIC RAY winning at Windsor under Oisin Murphy*

course record and she just found conditions against her under a big weight on her next start. A half-sister to a Listed winner at three and out of a mare that finished second to subsequent Oaks winner Love Divine in the Lupe, she is bred to improve and is an exciting sprinter.

Another to win second time out was **Guiding Light** at Chepstow in July under Jimmy Fortune, providing us with our first juvenile winner of the campaign. He was unable



to make a serious impression in nurseries but looks the type to progress at three, which should be the case with **Cosmic Ray**, the first foal of a Fillies' Mile fourth and by Phoenix Reach. He won a heavy ground nursery at Windsor on his final start and looks a nice prospect.

**Rattling Jewel** showed promise on his debut at Kempton in early October, but it was still a big step forward to win at Lingfield Park three weeks later. Liam Keniry did well to get to the front from his wide draw and hold off the strong challenge of the runner-up. Rattling Jewel should get a mile next year, while **Munstead Pride** is likely to be seen over further, having won a mile maiden on the fibresand at the third attempt. A half-brother to 1m4f winner Gold Mine and to 2m winner Queen's Star, he should do well over a trip.

**Sonnolento** went agonizingly close at Kempton Park on his third start, losing out by just a nose after an unfortunate incident on his previous outing, when he stumbled and unseated David Probert at the same course in October.



*RATTLING JEWEL winning at Lingfield under Liam Keniry*

Thankfully, horse and jockey were both fine and Sonnolento should not be long in winning. This should also be the case with **Nortron**, who shaped with plenty of promise on his debut in a good maiden at York and just found one with more experience too good on his next outing at Windsor. Out of a half-sister to dual King's Stand winner Equiano, he should do well next term.

**Royal Normandy** was too green to do himself justice on his only start at Newmarket in October, but the experience will not be lost on him and he has shown enough at home to suggest he can make the grade as a three year old, which also applies to **Mr Quicksilver**, a half-brother to the French 2,000 Guineas winner Aussie Rules, who ran very green on his only start at Kempton in September.

**Hala Madrid** and **Man Look** are both by Nayef and bred to do much better next year, the former being a sister to Top Lock, a horse I trained to finish third in the German Derby and the King Edward VII in 2008. I was pleased to

be able to get a run into both of them, as with another son of Nayef in **Prince Of Cardamom**, who showed definite ability in two starts at Newbury and Goodwood in soft ground this autumn.

**Countermand** made a promising mid-race move prior to getting tired on his debut at Nottingham and he should make a nice three year old, while **St Saviour** is much better than he showed on his only start at Nottingham and can be expected to leave that form well behind in time.

Twice-raced fillies **Farletti** and **Scots Fern** are half-sisters to Montaly and Mon Cadeaux respectively and they both showed enough in two starts apiece this autumn to suggest they will be winning races next year. **Cape Spirit** was green on her debut at Chester but she kept on up the straight and will certainly benefit from the experience.

A brother to Group 3 winner Royal Empire, **Scottish** is bred to make the grade and I was pleased to get him some experience this term. He is one to look forward to next year, as is **Arabian Illusion**, a son of Makfi who is also owned by Jim and Fitri Hay and showed real promise when third on his debut at Kempton in November.

A daughter of Yeats, **Rose Above** is from a family I know very well, being closely related to Roserrow and out of a Listed-placed mare I trained called Sabah, herself a half-sister to the grand old campaigner Vanderlin. I was very pleased with her debut run at Newmarket and she should do well next term. The same is true of another filly in **Lady Pinnacle**, who finished runner-up on the latest of her three starts on the All-Weather this autumn. Owned by Michael and Caroline Wates, she is a sister to Lord Zenith, who won a Listed race for us at three.

**Red Rubles** went close on his debut in a useful maiden at Sandown Park in June so it was disappointing that he was unable to get off the mark in three subsequent starts, though he didn't enjoy Epsom's undulations on his third outing and did finish a good second in a big field maiden at York. He will be winning races next year, as should **Scarlet Minstrel**, a son of Sir Percy bred by the Hitchins family, who can build on his two good runs in maidens when sent over middle-distances next year.

**Berkshire Beauty** failed to handle the soft ground at Nottingham on her nursery debut but had previously shown enough to suggest we can find a race for her, while **Lady Zodiac** was twice a runner-up after joining us in the summer and should be able to shed her maiden tag.

**Brandon Castle** finished third on two of his three outings, showing versatility by placing on firm ground at Bath and on heavy at Brighton! He is another bred to improve over further next year, as is **Whitchurch**, who ran a creditable race to finish in midfield on his debut at Kempton Park and showed real promise when third at the same track the next time. ■

# THE 2014 12 TO FOLLOW COMPETITION

**Retired in Cornwall Des Oates has master minded his victory to beat the trainer, not necessarily a good move had he still been working here. Four of the top five scoring horses were bred on the Stud which highlights the fantastic year the home bred's have had. Interestingly not as high a scoring year as 2013 when the winner scored 258 but a decisive victory all the same.**

**The prize money is divided as follows:-**

**1st £979      2nd £445      =3rd £178      Last place £10**

<b>1 OATES, DES</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>2 BALDING, ANDREW</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>3 FRIEND, STUART</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>3 KINGSLERE STUD</b>	<b>187</b>

5 Balding, Clare	179	24 O'Brien, Dr MJ & Mrs D (C)	130	45 O'Brien, Dr MJ & Mrs D (B)	114
6 Balding, Jono/Toby/Flora	177	26 Webb, David	129	46 Lumley, Peter	113
7 Cheshire, Nathan	165	27 Balding, Ian	128	47 Garnet & Andy (A)	112
7 Lees, Jan	165	28 Arnold, Alice	127	48 Hoof-Hearted, Mr & Mrs	111
9 Burns, Danny (B)	155	28 Cheshire, Angie (A)	127	48 Mackinnon, Bridget	111
10 Simpson, Felicity	154	30 Mackinnon, Roger	126	50 King, Charlie	110
10 Chinner	154	30 Powell, DF	126	51 Boyce, Mr ID (A)	109
12 King, Gail	150	32 Bishop, Trevor	124	52 Richardson, John (B)	108
13 Ford Fuels (B)	149	33 Hoskins, Sam	123	53 Chivers & Derbyshire (A)	107
14 Hall, David (A)	148	33 Lumley, Sue	123	54 Burns, Danny (A)	106
15 Paris, Rex (A)	147	33 Rafferty, Gerry (A)	123	54 Dangar, Richard	106
16 Woburn Stud	146	36 Burdett, Adam	122	54 Read, Teresa	106
17 Balding, Boris	144	37 Fearne, Paddy	121	57 Burns, Will	105
18 Newbery, Karen	139	37 Hunt, Kenneth	121	57 Oury, Gerald	105
18 Palmer, Clare	139	37 O'Brien, Dr MJ & Mrs D (D)	121	59 Bullion, Barbara	103
20 Rafferty, Gerry (B)	137	40 Balding, Emma	119	60 Jordon, Leigh	102
21 Hodgkins, Adrian	136	40 Hall, David (B)	119	61 Measures, Derek	101
22 Ford Fuels (C)	134	42 Cheshire, Angie (C)	118	61 Payton, Michael	101
23 Cheshire, Angie (D)	131	43 Venter, Theo	117	63 Fowler-Watt, DG	100
24 Gay, Joshua	130	44 De Paiva, Ben (C)	115	63 Swallow, Bruce	100



65 Brown, D	99	104 Gordon, Susie (A)	86	143 Chivers & Derbyshire (A)	65
65 Cousins, Rose	99	105 Felton, Peter	85	144 Blaydon, Paul	64
65 De Paiva, Ben (B)	99	105 Stansby, Clive	85	145 A'Court, Peter	63
68 Knight, John	98	107 Aeberhard, Werner	84	145 Conroy, Carl	63
68 Powell, DF	98	107 Jamie, Daisy & Ella	84	145 Paris, Rex (B)	63
68 Rae Smith, Alan	98	109 Wellman, John	83	145 Watson, William	63
68 Watson, Sue	98	110 Beasant, Pete	82	145 Ford Fuels (A)	63
72 Gale, John	96	110 Donovan, Brian (B)	82	150 Jones, Nicholas	62
72 McPhee, Angus	96	110 Michaelson, Bob (A)	82	150 Richardson, John (A)	62
74 Slade, Valerie	95	113 Gee, Simon	81	152 Arnold, Pamela	60
74 Woolley, Sharon	95	113 Mariscotti, Mick	81	153 Donovan, Brian (A)	59
76 Brister, Colin	94	113 Read, Ian	81	153 Hutchinson, Fiona	59
76 Gardiner, Andrew	94	116 Conroy, Gloria	80	155 Kent, Emily	56
78 Box, Peter	92	116 Register, Layton	80	156 Arlington, Jenny	55
78 Measures, Derek (B)	92	118 Brister, Mary	79	157 Mariscotti, Janice	54
78 Rendell, Phil	92	118 Elsesser, Martha	79	158 Ker, Jeremy	51
78 Trussel, Steve	92	118 Spickett, Paul (A)	79	159 Lane, Angela	49
82 Burns, Richard	91	121 Thio, Lynn	78	159 Thompson, Linda	49
82 Sally Cadbury & J Mackinnon	91	122 Coles, Michael	77	161 Hetherington, Tessa	48
82 Slade, Martin	91	122 Evans, Richard	77	162 Gay, Sue	46
82 Tregaskey, G M	91	122 Gay, David	77	162 Gee, Mary	46
86 De Paiva, Ben (A)	90	122 Holmes, Rachael	77	164 Burns, Lynne	45
86 Derbyshire, Mrs D	90	126 Doherty, T	75	164 Coventry, Bryan	45
86 Michaelson, Bob (B)	90	126 O'Brien, Dr MJ & Mrs D (A)	75	166 Gardiner, Carolyn	44
86 O'Brien, Dr MJ & Mrs D (E)	90	126 Garnet & Andy (B)	75	167 Balding, Mack	42
86 Palmer, Bill	90	129 Ford Fuels (D)	74	168 Horne, Ray	41
86 Rafferty, April (A)	90	130 Boyce, Mr ID (B)	73	168 Jones, Cherry	41
92 Green, Marion	89	131 Fox, Philip	72	170 Finlay, Rosemary	39
92 Smith, Jeff	89	132 Palmer, Anne	71	170 Gardiner, Lucy, Tom, Robert	39
94 Cheshire, Angie (B)	88	133 Burns, Sarah	70	172 Robinson-Gay, Maggie	36
94 Dillon, Batt	88	134 Hutchinson, Mark	69	173 Gordon, Susie (B)	35
94 Hunt, Kevin	88	134 Routledge, Hugh	69	173 Scutt, Kevin	35
94 Plummer, Ann	88	134 Sear, Graham	69	175 Plumbly, Simon	28
94 Plumbly, Helen	88	137 Paris, Rex (C)	68	175 Reardon Smith, Julia	28
99 Gosling, Caroline	87	138 Broughton, T	66	177 Whitehall, A	20
99 McPhee, Stuart	87	138 Broughton, B	66	178 Reditt, Mrs P	19
99 Richardson, John (C)	87	138 Jakes, M	66	179 Hyde, M	18
99 Stratton, Larry	87	138 Spickett, Paul (B)	66		
99 Woolley, Steve	87	138 Weedy, Kathryn	66		

## SELECTIONS OF THE LEADERS

DES OATES		ANDREW BALDING		STUART FRIEND		KINGSCLERE STUD	
SIDE GLANCE	16	MIME DANCE	19	BALLINDERRY BOY	0	JONNY RAE	1
INTRANSIGENT	39	COLLABORATION	6	DESERT COMMAND	17	PASSOVER	0
SWAN SONG	11	ABSOLUTELY SO	28	MONTALY	22	PICARDY	0
WHIPLASH WILLIE	33	STYBBA	29	END OF LINE	15	RESTRAINT	0
KOKOVOKO	4	ENLIVEN	17	MERRY ME	31	SPECTATOR	46
SPECTATOR	46	DESERT COMMAND	17	STYBBA	29	CHESIL BEACH	64
PASSOVER	0	ROYAL WARRANTY	34	COMANCHERO	39	RAWAKI	25
ASKANCE	0	HAVISHAM	0	BRANDON CASTLE	8	ASKANCE	0
DANCE OF FIRE	21	EQUITANUS	7	FAST APPROACH	0	ELM PARK	50
CRITICAL SPEED	0	OPTIMYSTIC	0	MAKE IT UP	26	NORDIC BEAT	0
ELM PARK	50	SONNOLENTO	0	SNOOZING INDIAN	0	POETS VIEW	0
POETS VIEW	0	ELM PARK	50	SCOTTISH	0	ROSE ABOVE	1

## LEADING HORSES

CHESIL BEACH	64
ELM PARK	50
SPECTATOR	46
COMANCHERO	39
INTRANSIGENT	39



*CHESIL BEACH enjoying a well deserved winter holiday with Elm Park's dam Lady Brora*



# THE SEASON IN NUMBERS

	WINS	RUNS	%	2NDS	3RDS	4THS	WIN £	TOTAL £
<b>2YO</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>277,483</b>	<b>304,317</b>
<b>3YO</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>382,741</b>	<b>583,418</b>
<b>4YO+</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>604,754</b>	<b>1,068,509</b>
<b>FOREIGN</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>33,333</b>	<b>584,957</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>2,541,203</b>

## TOP TEN EARNERS

1	Side Glance	£508,920
2	Elm Park	£212,040
3	Tullius	£205,858
4	Intransigent	£142,297
5	Lord Van Percy	£131,311
6	Here Comes When	£107,490
7	Absolutely So	£105,394
8	Whiplash Willie	£82,398
9	Born In Bombay	£81,591
10	Dungannon	£48,077

## TOP TEN JOCKEYS

1	David Probert	48-252	19%
2	Oisin Murphy	26-132	20%
3	Liam Keniry	6-45	13%
4	Jimmy Fortune	5-22	23%
5	Jim Crowley	5-26	19%
6	Andrea Atzeni	3-4	75%
7	Rob Hornby	3-19	16%
8	Hugo Hunt	2-6	33%
9	Jack Garritty	2-9	22%
10	Thomas Brown	2-28	7%

## TOP TEN TRACKS

1	Kempton Park	13-91	14%
2	Chester	11-31	35%
3	Lingfield Park	9-61	15%
4	Southwell	8-18	44%
5	Windsor	7-25	28%
6	Bath	6-21	29%
7	Doncaster	5-26	19%
8	Newmarket	5-42	12%
9	Brighton	4-15	27%
10	Chepstow	4-17	24%

## TOP TEN TIMEFORM (3yo+)

1	Side Glance	124
1	Tullius	124
3	Here Comes When	122
4	Intransigent	119
5	Absolutely So	117
5	Whiplash Willie	117
7	Rawaki	115
8	Dungannon	112
8	Lord Van Percy	112
10	Havana Beat	111
10	Scotland	111

## TOP TEN TIMEFORM (2yo)

1	Elm Park	117p
2	Make It Up	103
3	Master Apprentice	99
4	Rocky Rider	89p
5	Kinematic	89
6	Rattling Jewel	87
7	Duretto	84p
8	Dance Of Fire	84
9	Cosmic Ray	83
10	Red Rubles	82

# KINGSCLERE'S STALLIONS

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## PART ONE

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by Tessa Hetherington

**It is possible that some readers, upon seeing a piece entitled 'Kingsclere's Stallions' in the index of this magazine, may have anticipated some sort of 'Page 3' style photo-montage of Park House's most attractive male employees. They will be either disappointed or relieved to find that it is, instead, a look at horses recently or currently at stud which spent their racing careers here at Kingsclere. (The photo-montage is being saved for next year, perhaps after a recruitment drive...)**

The world of thoroughbred breeding is in many respects driven by fashion. The first question any prospective breeder must answer is 'Are you breeding to sell, or to race?' This question may seem ludicrous given that the product to be sold is a racehorse, but buyers of racehorses, like buyers of many things, are influenced by trend and hype. A yearling by a 'hot' new stallion who hit the headlines for a single season on

the track may be a far more commercial prospect than one by a hardy stalwart of the turf who has been steadily successful on the track over a lengthy career. The latter may struggle to attract the quantity and quality of mares required to produce progeny that will advertise him in the sales ring and on the racecourse, and even the former will find that the market is unforgiving if his early crops fail to shine. Very few colts are good enough to stand at stud, and of those very few succeed in the longer-term.

It is, therefore, noteworthy that in the past few years there have been no less than eight Kingsclere-trained stallions standing at public stud in Europe. Their profiles differ but they are united in their toughness, consistency and longevity as racehorses – qualities which may not have propelled them all to the front of the stallion catwalk, but which have rendered them exceptional value for breeders whose ultimate goal is to create a racehorse, rather than a sale-topper.

### Dashing Blade

A son of another Kingsclere-trained stallion in Elegant Air, Dashing Blade was bred by Jeff Smith at his Littleton Stud. Out of the Sharpen Up mare Sharp Castan, who produced three other black-type performers, Dashing Blade was brilliant as a two year old, taking the National Stakes at the Curragh before

replicating that Group 1 victory on home soil in the Dewhurst. As a three year old he struggled in the 2000 Guineas but was placed in the St James' Palace at Royal Ascot, before stepping up to 10 furlongs and winning the Group 2 Prix Eugene Adam at Saint-Cloud and the Group 1 Gran Premio d'Italia at San Siro.



*DASHING BLADE winning the 1989 Dewhurst Stakes (John Matthias)*





*DASHING BLADE winning the Group 2 Prix Eugene Adam at Saint Cloud (J. Matthias)*

Dashing Blade was also Group 1 placed in Germany and it was there that he went to stud - standing at Gestut Etzean from the age of 4 to his death at 26 last year. He sired numerous Group winners in Germany, perhaps most notably Lord of England (now also a sire at Gestut Etzean) and most recently Sirius, who this year took the Group 1 Grosser Preis von Berlin as a three year old.

Dashing Blade's success was not confined to Germany – he has made his mark across Europe, with Group performers such as Soave, Faberger, and the great racemare Proud wings, who won the Falmouth and the Prix Jacques le Marois, only to be disqualified from the latter after hanging sharply in the closing stages. Proud wings ran 26 times, but can be outdone

on that front by a Dashing Blade gelding, Dashing Blue, who made 56 starts for his trainer, one I. A. Balding. Bred at Kingsclere, Dashing Blue was fifth in the Nunthorpe but also won the Listed Rous Stakes and several big handicaps, including the Portland.

Dashing Blade's influence will no doubt continue for years to come, particularly given his success as a broodmare sire. His daughters have produced leading lights such as six-time Group/Grade 1 winner Stacelita, dual Lancashire Oaks winner Barshiba, and a horse called Elm Park... The Kingsclere Racing Club has a Dashing Blade yearling to race next year, and also one by his son, Lord of England.

## Selkirk

Selkirk was by the damsire of Dashing Blade, and out of the Nebbiolo mare Annie Edge, herself placed in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and the dam of Group winner Seebe (beaten a head in the French 1,000 Guineas) and dual Listed winner Rimrod, both of them also trained at Kingsclere.

A striking chestnut blessed with an excellent temperament, Selkirk was a relatively late starter but won a Listed race on his debut in September of his two year old year before finishing fourth in the Gran Criterium at Saint-Cloud. As a three year old he took the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, and as a four year old he won the Lockinge, the Celebration Mile and the Challenge Stakes, all by more than two lengths. The finish was much closer in the Sussex Stakes at Glorious Goodwood, where Selkirk went down by a head to Marling in a famous contest, having had an interrupted preparation for the race. Throughout his racing career Selkirk ran 15 times and finished in the first four in all bar two of



*SELKIRK at Lanwades Stud*

those races. He was crowned champion miler in Europe in 1991 and champion older horse in Britain in 1992.

As a stallion Selkirk has been a great success, as reflected by a fee rise from £4,000 to a career peak of £40,000. Boasting an impressive winner to runner ratio of 59%, Selkirk has been responsible for 79 Stakes winners in Europe, including



*SELKIRK winning the 1992 Lockinge Stakes Group 2 at Newbury (Ray Cochrane)*

Leadership, Kastoria, Pipedreamer and Prince Kirk. In the last few years his flag-bearers have included the great fillies Nahrain, Thistle Bird and Cubanita, as well as the phenomenally tough Cityscape. Winner of the Group 1 Dubai Duty Free at Meydan and three European Group 3s, Cityscape was placed in a further six Group 1s and now stands at Overbury Stud.

Selkirk's progeny have also flourished in his former home, with his Group winners Trans Island and Border Arrow both trained at Kingsclere. Selkirk died in early 2013 and covered only limited numbers in his last few years at stud, but we are lucky enough to have one of his final crop here at Park House, the filly Scots Fern.

### Trans Island

A son of Selkirk out of the Green Desert mare Khubza (a half-sister to three Group/Listed winners), Trans Island was bred by Godolphin but pinhooked as a foal for 45,000 guineas – a shrewd buy as he re-sold the following year for 100,000. Raced by the Al Muallim partnership, he ran 19 times and won seven of his starts, including the Group 2 Prix du Rond Point at Longchamp over a mile, the Group 3 Diomed Stakes at Epsom, and two Listed races including Newbury's Dubai Duty Free. He was also second in the Lockinge and third in the Prix de la Foret.

Trans Island stands at Nunstainton Stud in County Durham and, with a 51% winner to runner ratio, has proven a solid sire. Emma's loyalty to him has reaped rewards in the shape of Intransigent, who is currently a dual Listed winner and also took the valuable Challenge Cup at Ascot this year. He has already qualified for the All-Weather championships in 2015 and seems to be getting better with age. Andrew has also enjoyed success with Trans Island's Kalahari Gold, who won four races whilst at Park House before being sold to Sheikh Hamdan. For his new connections he followed in his father's footsteps by winning the Listed Dubai Duty Free at Newbury.

He also won four races in France, and placed in two Group contests at Meydan.

Trans Island has also produced some decent National Hunt horses, including Grade 2 Hurdle winner Kanpai and Irish Island, a Grade 3 winner but also placed in Grade 1s at the Cheltenham and Punchestown Festivals last year.



*TRANS ISLAND*





*TRANS ISLAND wins the 2000 Diomed Stakes at Epsom (K Fallon)*

### Phoenix Reach

By Dewhurst winner Alhaarth and out of a half sister to Arc winner Carroll's House, Phoenix Reach was bought as a yearling by Ian for Andrew Christou's Winterbeck Manor Stud for 36,000 guineas and sent to Kingsclere. He ran just once as a two year old and was beaten a head, but this was no disgrace as his assailant was Jeff Smith's Norse Dancer, who went on to win two Group 3s and place in ten Group 1s before heading to stud. Phoenix Reach fractured a pastern after that race and so missed the remainder of his two year old year.

As a three year old, and with Andrew having taken over from Ian as his trainer, Phoenix Reach stepped up to 12f and duly won his maiden on his reappearance. He then took the Group 3 Gordon Stakes en route to a third behind Brian Boru in the St Leger, and ended the season with his first Group 1 win, in the Canadian International at Woodbine – only his fifth start. International travel was to prove a major part of Phoenix's career, resulting in two further Group 1 wins, in



*PHOENIX REACH*

the Hong Kong Vase at 4 and the Dubai Sheema Classic at 5. In that year he was also runner-up in the Singapore Airlines International Cup, and overall he earned almost £2m in prize-money.

Initially at the National Stud but at Mickley Stud since 2012, Phoenix Reach has, like Passing Glance, been supported by his former connections. Mares sent to him by owner Andrew Christou

have produced nine winners, including 10-time winner Roy's Legacy and 2014 juvenile winner Cosmic Ray. Andrew trains Phoenix's top four rated horses, namely Elm Park, Whiplash Willie, Rawaki and Chesil Beach, the highly progressive filly who has won five races this year. Three of those four were bred by Emma here at Kingsclere and Whiplash Willie, whose owner-breeders are the Hitchins family, was raised on the Stud! Elm Park was Phoenix's first Stakes and Group winner, but although he came from the stallion's fifth crop, those first five crops amounted to a total of 114 foals – fewer than in a single crop of many 'hot' new stallions. Of course, the achievements of his progeny this year have done much to make Phoenix Reach rather warmer, as reflected by his fee rise for next year from £1,500 to £5,000. ■



*PHOENIX REACH winning the 2005 Dubai Sheema Classic at Nad Al Sheeba (Martin Dwyer)*

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MARYANN WALL

**M**aryann has worked at Park House for six years, having previously worked at Meon Valley Stud with mares, foals and yearlings. Although her father is a jump racing fan, Maryann's family have no background in horses and the only riding she had done when she arrived here was during the nine week apprenticeship course at the British Racing School, which she had completed immediately before starting at Park House. Over the years Maryann has become an accomplished rider, and she rode in her first race in May of this year, finishing a close second on Sea Soldier at Salisbury.

Not only does Maryann look after her horses here in the yard, she has also taken responsibility for a former Park House favourite, three-time winning stayer Bernie the Bolt, who has spent the last 18 months in her care since his retirement from racing. Here, we find out what the average day holds for Maryann.

I live in a flat on the yard with my boyfriend Jon, but in fact I'm in the car by 05:30 every morning to go and do Bernie. I keep him in the village so it's not far to go, but he'd be very cross if I wasn't there on time to feed him every morning! I used to ride Bernie most days when he was at Park House and really it was him that taught me to ride, so it's great to have him in his retirement. He's been very easy to retrain and is pretty bombproof these days. We are having lessons in flatwork and jumping as our aim is to compete successfully in the Retraining of Racehorses (ROR) Championships next year. Well, that's my aim anyway – we'll have to see what Bernie thinks of it when we do our first class....

Once I've mucked Bernie out, fed him and turned him out in his field, I head back to the yard and have time for a quick cup of tea before I start work. I ride four lots each morning and my favourites are Sea Soldier, Storm Force Ten and Havana Beat (except when he's fresh, when I'm quite happy to leave him to Matti or Dodge!) Sea Soldier is the horse I rode in my first race, which was a great experience and one I'd love to repeat. At this time of year third and fourth lots are usually yearlings, and I've been very lucky this year as my two regular yearlings are both nice rides – an Iffraaj colt out of Solva, and a Shirocco colt out of Lady Brora, who I hope will be as good as his half-brother Elm Park!



Maryann and Bernie at the Kingsclere Fun Ride

Once we've finished for the morning I am usually back in the car and heading to someone's house to walk their dogs. I love dogs and do a lot of dog-sitting and dog-walking in my spare time. Otherwise I might nip to Robinsons to buy things for Bernie or, if I'm lucky, sit and watch the racing with a cup of tea.

I'm back on the yard before 4pm for evening stables, when I groom and skip out my horses and make sure they have hay and water and are comfortable for the night. I do Breakheart, Galeotti, Berkshire Honey and Havana Beat. I am very fond of them all but Havana Beat (or Harvey, as I call him) is particularly special to me. I got to take him to Arlington to run in the American St Leger this August,

which was a fantastic experience. It was his first trip abroad so it was great that we had Leanne and Side Glance with us - they are both seasoned travellers and so kept me and Harvey relaxed. I was very proud of Harvey – he didn't move a muscle whilst being loaded onto the plane and adapted to his new surroundings brilliantly. He had a pony called Mini-Moo to lead him to the track each day and he adored his new friend, even licking his neck all the way down to the start for the race! He ran a great race to be third and hopefully this will be the first of many trips abroad for him – we both love the sunshine!

Once work is finished at about 6pm I head back to Bernie to bring him in from the field. Depending on the weather I may ride him, before feeding him and putting him to bed. Then it's home for dinner and an early night before the process starts again the next morning. I'll have a bit of a break over Christmas and will head down to Southampton to spend it with my family – Christmas is a big thing in our household so I'm really looking forward to that. ■



Jon, Maryann, Karen and Michaela



# Kingsclere Racing Club



*KRC members after Spectator's win at Doncaster*

It has been an unforgettable season for members of the Kingsclere Racing Club, with 14 winners in the Club colours this season, as well as two in the colours of Qatar Racing & Kingsclere Racing Club, courtesy of Elm Park's famous wins in the Royal Lodge and Racing Post Trophy.

It has been a long-standing aim of Andrew's to be able to return the full membership fee to Club members through prize-money earned and, in a season that has featured not just Group and Listed wins but also major handicap success, this formidable task has been realised!

To be involved with a horse of the calibre of Elm Park has been an incredible experience for everyone in the Club and Sheikh Fahad, the colt's co-owner at Newmarket and Doncaster, quickly became a firm favourite with our members with his excitement and enthusiasm! Members have been part of Elm Park's journey from being bred on the stud to becoming one of the favourites for next year's Classics and, while we will all follow his progress very closely next term, we are delighted to have his yearling half-brother in the Club for 2015!

Intransigent has progressed into a high-class performer this autumn and, having won the Listed Queensferry Stakes at Chester, he absolutely bolted up in the Challenge Cup at Ascot and added another Listed success back on the All-Weather at Lingfield Park in November. He is now qualified for the sprint on All-

Weather Championships day, for which he has been installed as ante-post favourite by the sponsors.

Club members have enjoyed plenty of success with the progeny of Averami, with Spectator becoming the fifth of her progeny to win in the Club colours. His three victories included a fine win on his final start of the season at Doncaster, cheered home by a large number of Club members in attendance! His half-brother Rawaki ran some fine races in defeat and gained a deserved success in the Persian Punch conditions race at Salisbury.

Numerous Club records were broken in this the ninth year of its existence, one of them being the most wins by a Club horse in a year, with the extremely progressive Chesil Beach winning five times during a purple patch for the Club between June and November, in which there were 15 winners from 39 runners at a strike-rate of 38%.

Having got off the mark in a lowly seller at Lingfield Park, further wins followed at Brighton and Chester (2), before a class 2 handicap success at Musselburgh off a 23lbs higher mark than at the beginning of the season, with proof of the affection for her in the Club coming from several members making the long trip to Scotland from Devon!

It has been an incredible year and we look forward to celebrating in style at the ROA Awards Dinner in London, where Elm Park has been nominated for the 'Outstanding 2yo' award. ■

# KINGSCLERE'S STAFF

As already stated in the Introduction but worth reiterating, a record-breaking season does not happen without a huge amount of hard work from a lot of people, and it is right that we take the opportunity to express publicly our heartfelt thanks for the continued effort and dedication of our excellent team of staff, who work long days in all weathers to keep both the yard and the horses in top condition and running well. To have such a large team working together so efficiently and harmoniously is a real asset.

## NEW (AND OLD) FACES



*New Staff – Tessa, Nigel, Rachel and Georgina*

We were delighted to welcome Nigel Walker back to Park House in September, when he resumed his former role as Head Lad. An outstanding manager of both horses and people and a tireless worker, he is an excellent example to all who work at Park House and we are very lucky to have him back in the fold.

Another old face returning is Tessa Hetherington, who was with us for the summer in 2012 before completing the Darley Flying Start course, a two-year management training programme for the thoroughbred industry which took her all around the world. Armed with this broad experience, she has returned to Park House to act as Andrew's racing manager, assisting with race planning, owner liaison, yearling selection, vet work and anything else that crops up!

After two years at Park House, we were sorry to say goodbye to our pupil assistant Charlie King, an excellent horseman who has left us to gain further bloodstock and international experience. In his place we are delighted to welcome Rachael Davies, who joins us on a placement from Oxford Brookes University and who has quickly found her feet on the yard (and her irons in the saddle!)

Sarah Blyth is another who has moved to pastures new, after two years as Assistant Racing Secretary. She has gone to Kempton Park racecourse in an events management role, where we are sure her verve and can-do attitude will see her as highly valued as she



*Chris, Lindy and Eugene*

was here. Her Park House shoes have been ably filled by Georgina Scott, who is already well versed in the workings of a busy racing office through her experience at home with her father, jumps trainer Jeremy Scott.

## GOODBYE TO CAZZY



*Cazzy presented with a memento of his 46 years at Kingsclere*

In November we said goodbye to Peter 'Cazzy' Williams, who has begun his well-earned retirement after 46 years at Park House. Cazzy has been an outstanding member of staff throughout those 46 years, firstly as a work rider and groom, and more recently as a member of our ground-staff team. An excellent rider and dedicated to his horses, his charges have included many of The Queen's good horses such as Magna Carta, Special Leave and English Harbour, and also Jeff Smith's Dewhurst winner Dashing Blade. Tutor to many a young apprentice and a cheerful and reliable presence on the yard, Cazzy has been a lynchpin of the Park House team for decades. The affection with which he is held by his colleagues was clear at his farewell drinks, where his two Park House bosses, Ian and Andrew, presented him with a photograph of the famous statue of Mill Reef (who he recalled riding 'on Thursdays'), and he was given vouchers for a golfing trip by his workmates. He will be much missed and we wish him all the very best in his retirement. ■





# SPILLERS AWARDS



As part of their fantastic sponsorship of the yard, Spillers have again generously supported our 'employee of the month' awards, which run during the season. This season's winners were:

Dwayne Pettitt, for stepping into the role of travelling head lad with ease (and usefully passing his HGV test!);

Danny Burns, for his work in preparing Born in Bombay to win the Britannia at Royal Ascot;

Maddie O'Meara, for preparing Here Comes When to take two Group races this season;

Valentyn Los, for his dedication to five-time winning filly Chesil Beach;

Sam Goldsmith, for looking after Racing Post Trophy winner Elm Park;

Chloe Purkis, for her tireless work as a member of the ground-staff team.

All winners receive £100 and a bottle of champagne, and are no doubt as grateful to Spillers as we are for their ongoing support of the yard!



*Dwayne Pettitt*



*Sam Goldsmith, Chloe Purkis, Valentyn Los and Danny Burns*



*Maddie O'Meara*

## PARK HOUSE STABLES GOLF DAY...

This year saw a bumper turn out for the Park House Golf Day, with 68 players making it even harder for IAB to win! Johnno Spence arrived as favourite on the back of two big wins and his team (Johnno, Toppo, Matt Gibbens and Roy Matterson) were in sparkling form. They were clear cut winners coming in at 8 under, 4 clear of the nearest rivals. The longest drives went to Neil Minell and Matt Gibbens, both by impressive margins.

Next year we hope to have a 'shot gun' start at 10am on Thursday September 10th, and everyone is welcome to come and join us. More details will follow in the Summer magazine. ■



*Winning Team with Clare*



